

The Water Connection January 1999

ON THE WATER FRONT



Currently, groundwater wells provide water for all of Tucson Water's 600,000 customers. But, continued reliance on groundwater threatens the future of our community. For more than 50 years, we have been pumping too much groundwater, causing water levels to fall up to 4 feet a year – more than 200 feet in some areas. What does that mean? It means that if we keep pumping groundwater wells, our few remaining riparian areas will disappear, just like they have along most of our desert streams.

Over pumping groundwater also means the ground surface can sink ... permanently. No amount of rain soaking down to the water table can cause the ground to rise again. Subsidence is already occurring and unless we reduce over pumping, we'll see cracked foundations, broken utility lines, and major costs to our community.

Reducing our dependence on groundwater and protecting our environment are two reasons Tucson Water is planning to demonstrate that recharged Colorado River water blended with groundwater can be used in our homes and businesses. Tucson Water is seeking four neighborhoods to represent all of our customers in a voluntary program to use water recovered from the City's renewable water project west of Tucson. For more information about this voluntary demonstration project call 791-4331.

David Modeer
Director, Tucson Water

SAVE WATER AND REDUCE YOUR WATER BILL

Conserving water at home means helping our environment and saving dollars off your water bill each month. Tucson Water's Zanjero Program staff (water managers) will visit your home and show you how you can save water and lower your water bill. They'll even help you install fixtures (including automatic irrigation timers) that will use less water and they'll show you where you're using the most water and give you tips on how to conserve.

It's a free service from Tucson Water. Call 791-4556 for an appointment with the Zanjero Program staff.

BEFORE YOU PLANT, GET SOME WATER\$MART INFORMATION

Tucson Water is again sponsoring a series of FREE workshops to help you design, install, operate and maintain a water-thrifty drip irrigation system for your landscape or garden. Workshops are also offered on how to use your irrigation timer and how to select plants for your landscape.

March 27, 1999

8:30-10:30 am	Mini-Oasis Plant Selection and Design
11:00-1:00 pm	Drip Irrigation Design and Installation
2:00-4:00 pm	Irrigation Timer Use

Pima County Cooperative Extension
4210 N. Campbell Ave., Tucson

February 6, 1999

8:30-10:30 am	Drip Irrigation Design and Installation
11:00-1:00 pm	Irrigation Timer Use
2:00-4:00 pm	Mini-Oasis Plant Selection and Design

Tucson Botanical Garden
2150 N. Alvernon Way, Tucson

May 1, 1999

9:00-11:00 am	Mini-Oasis Plant Selection and Design
11:30-1:30 pm	Irrigation Timer Use
2:30-4:30 pm	Drip Irrigation Design and Installation

Bear Canyon Branch Library
8959 E. Tanque Verde Rd., Tucson

February 27, 1999

9:00-11:00 am	Irrigation Timer Use
11:30-1:30 pm	Mini-Oasis Plant Selection and Design
2:30-4:30 pm	Drip Irrigation Design and Installation

Las Campanas Social Center
565 W. Bell Tower Dr., Green Valley

June 5, 1999

8:30-10:30 am	Mini-Oasis Plant Selection and Design
11:00-1:00 pm	Drip Irrigation Design and Installation
2:00-4:00 pm	Irrigation Timer Use

Tucson Botanical Garden
2150 N. Alvernon Way, Tucson

March 13, 1999

8:30-10:30 am	Irrigation Timer Use
11:00-1:00 pm	Mini-Oasis Plant Selection and Design
2:00-4:00 pm	Drip Irrigation Design and Installation

Tohono Chul Park
7366 N. Paseo Del Norte, Tucson

Seating is limited at workshops and reservations are required. Reserve early to ensure a seat. Contact Tucson Water at 791-4331 for reservations.

The Saturday workshops are sponsored by the Pima County Cooperative Extension in cooperation with Tucson Water

Coliform Bacteria Testing Results

October 1998

Click this box to see the graphic representation of the October 1998 Groundwater Quality Report. (When you are finished there, you will need to use your browser's BACK button to return to this page)

To give you a more accurate measurement of the water quality in your neighborhood, the Tucson Water service area has been divided into 10 zones based on differences in water pressure and water quality. For a detailed description of the zone boundaries, call 791-4331.

One part per million (ppm) is the same as one second of time in 11.6 days.

Why should bacteria count matter to me?

Millions of people around the world suffer from waterborne diseases caused by bacteria. This is rare in the United States, where most water utilities disinfect the water and monitor and test for microorganisms. Tucson Water adds a sufficient level of chlorine to keep the groundwater we use safe for drinking, cooking and bathing.

What's a coliform, anyway?

Coliforms are bacteria which are not harmful themselves but may indicate the presence of other, potentially harmful bacteria.

Why should the chlorine level in my water matter to me?

Chlorine kills bacteria and germs that can grow in drinking water and prevents waterborne disease. Chlorine is the most widely used water disinfectant in North America. Tucson Water continually tests water at more than 240 locations to make sure chlorine levels stay within the target range.

Groundwater Quality Report

October 1998

Water Quality Zone		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	System Wide
Sodium (ppm)	Average	47	43	54	37	33	33	30	43	47	41	40
	Range	31-53	35-48	27-123	27-58	26-44	24-40	20-40	38-58	39-87	39-44	20-123
Mineral Content (ppm)	Average	332	283	333	228	219	239	219	328	265	214	262
	Range	226-446	232-321	167-628	180-388	164-284	195-287	154-281	254-471	209-362	206-223	154-628
Hardness (ppm)	Average	153	129	141	100	99	114	105	167	101	78	117
	Range	91-235	103-146	56-318	72-187	72-131	81-140	67-136	110-279	69-143	73-87	56-318
pH (units)	Average	7.8	8.0	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.9	8.0	7.9
	Range	7.6-8.2	7.9-8.1	7.5-8.3	7.6-8.1	7.4-8.2	7.4-8.2	7.4-8.2	7.4-8.1	7.7-8.1	7.8-8.2	7.4-8.3
Temperature (deg F)	Average	83	84	83	83	82	80	82	81	84	85	83
	Range	77-88	81-86	77-93	79-88	75-90	75-86	79-88	75-86	73-88	81-89	75-93

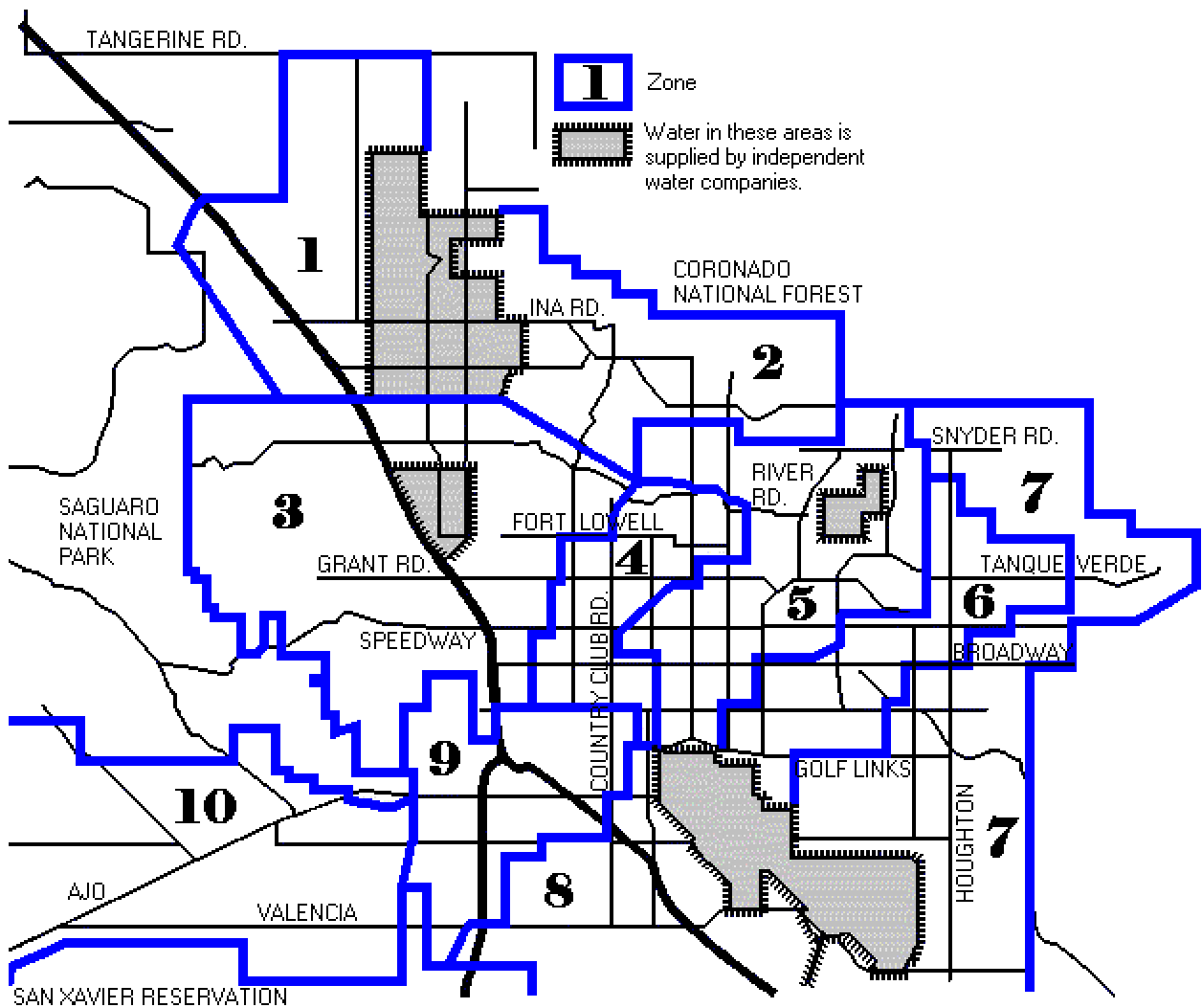
What does all this mean to me?

Sodium. The American Heart Association recommended standard for daily sodium intake is 3,000 milligrams. In general, the amount of sodium ingested from drinking water is a small part of a person's overall dietary intake. People on severely restricted sodium diets may want to consult their health care provider about sodium levels in their water.

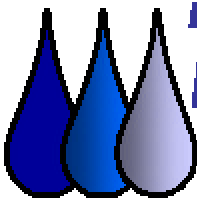
Mineral content measures the amount of total dissolved solids, or **TDS**, in the water. Mineral content can often affect the taste of the water. For example, many people can detect a salty taste when TDS is above 500 parts per million. The federal government has recommended an aesthetic standard of 500 ppm or less for mineral content in drinking water.

Hardness measures the ease with which soap can be lathered. The softer water is, the more easily it produces a soap lather. Water hardness also determines the degree of water spotting on dishes, plumbing fixtures and bath areas. In addition, most home water conditioners are set based on the hardness of the water entering the home. For the most part, Tucson's groundwater is considered moderately hard.

pH. Swimming pool chemistry, some fish aquariums and ponds, and certain water conditioner systems require you to control the pH of the water. pH is a measurement of acidity. Waters with a pH below 7.0 are considered acidic. The federal secondary, or aesthetic, standard for pH is 6.5 to 8.5.



The information shown on this map was collected at 244 sampling points.

 TUCSON WATER	<p><i>The Water Connection</i> is produced by Tucson Water. To receive a copy, or to receive this information in Spanish, call 791-4331 or mail your request to: Customer Information P.O. Box 27210 Tucson, AZ 85726-7210</p>	<p>City of Tucson TTY number: 791-2639</p> <p>Si usted desea este documento escrito en español, por favor, llame al 791-4331.</p>
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